

**ACTION: US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS**

**KEEC Council Meeting
Agenda Item E-2
May 31, 2018**

Recommendation

- That the Kentucky Environmental Education Council become the administrator for the US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program in Kentucky

Rationale

- The Kentucky Department of Education no longer has the personnel and resources to administer the program.
- KEEC has partnered with KDE in the past to promote the program through things like the Green Strides Tour that we hosted in 2014 and the inclusion of the Green Ribbon Schools awards at the Youth Summit and Awards Luncheon in 2017.
- The program would lend legitimacy to KEEC as the administrator of a federal program.
- KEEC could require schools who seek the Green Ribbon Schools designation to be part of the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program.
- The Green Ribbon Schools program is complementary to the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program (see the chart on the following page).

Program	Description	Eligibility	Student-Led	Grants
Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officially a partnership between KEEC and KDE • Will operate without a full-time coordinator in 2018-19 • Participation increases when funding is available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 schools • Public and private 	Yes	No
US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated in Kentucky by KDE, who are seeking to turn program over to KEEC • Extensive written application to demonstrate progress in three pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce environmental impact and costs ○ Improve the health and wellness of students and staff ○ Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways • Up to five state awardees nominated at federal level for preK-12, one for postsecondary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preK-12 schools, school districts, and postsecondary institutions • Public and private (though KDE has only awarded to public at preK-12 level) • Comply with all health, environmental, and safety laws • Once awarded at national level, no longer eligible 	No	No
Kentucky NEED Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides workshops for teachers, curriculum materials and kits for energy activities in the classroom. • Assists schools in forming student energy teams that study how energy is used in the schools and implements programs to help reduce energy consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 schools • Public and private 	Yes	No
Project Learning Tree GreenSchools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated in Kentucky by KAEE • Reciprocity with KGHS • Extensive investigation packets for energy, environmental quality, school site, waste & recycling, and water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All kinds of schools and youth organizations • Specific resources for early childhood 	Yes	Yes
Eastern Kentucky PRIDE Education Grants	<p>Eligible activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-curricular environmental education programs • Programs that focus on water quality, reduction of solid waste or environmentally oriented teacher training • Educational materials that will aid in teaching, promoting or providing hands-on learning experiences that build environmental awareness • Programs that will result in lesson plans, materials and projects that are tied to local and regional environmental issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational institutions applying as a school or non-formal educators • 501(c)(3) organizations • Only in counties served by Eastern Kentucky PRIDE 	No	Yes